

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1943

S. C. GAWNE, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.,
D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1943.

Chairman of the Council : G. T. Berryman, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Thos. Crooks, Esq.

Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :

F. Winstanley, Esq.—Jan.—July.

E. Wainwright, Esq.—Sept.—Dec.

Vice-Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :

R. C. Birchall, Esq.

Jan.—Mar.

T. Rimmer, Esq.

April—Dec.

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Staff of the Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health :

S. C. Gawne, M.D. (State Medicine), B.S. Lond., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

Reginald C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.M.Inst.B.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.

COUNCIL OFFICES

RAINFORD.

June, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rainford Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the 53rd Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the Report for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The Report has been drawn up in conformance with instructions contained in Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health, in which it is requested that Annual Reports shall be as brief as possible.

Although it is not permissible to refer in detail to statistical matters, records are being carefully preserved so that after the cessation of hostilities a Report can be presented dealing more fully with the health of the District during the War period.

The Report is not intended to cover any of the work in connection with A.R.P. Services, Blood Transfusion Service, or similar matters arising directly out of the War.

I desire again to express my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation.

Thanks are due also to Miss Ellerington for her assistance at all times. Though outside the scope of her duties as a member of the County Staff, she has given freely of her help in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. C. GAWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,877
Estimated population	3,586
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	1,063
Rateable Value	£16,272
Product of a penny rate	£67 16 0

I.—PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

There has been no change in the boundaries of the district during the year. An account of the physical features and social conditions of the district will be found in earlier reports.

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical tables cannot, for reasons of National security, be included in this Report, but the following is a general statement with reference to births and deaths.

64 births occurred during 1943. This was an increase of 6 on the previous year and an increase of 16 on the number occurring in 1941.

The number of civilian deaths assigned to Rainford for the year was 54. This was an increase of 14 on the previous year. The number is considerably above the average for several years past, due largely to an increase in the number of deaths attributable to heart disease.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 7. 6 of these were males, and 1 a female.

III.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes in the General Health Services during the year, and particulars of the various services will be found in my Report for 1940.

The Child Welfare Centre continues to be much appreciated by mothers in Rainford. The following is a record of attendances made during the year.

Number of Attendances by Children

Under 1 year of age	811
From 1-2 years of age	128
Over 2 years of age	114

IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement, and the supply is satisfactory.

As the result of the improvements made last year in the re-laying of 840 yards 6-in. main, there are now no complaints of shortage from the residents in the North end of the District.

All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of seven supplied by wells and one from a spring. Five of the latter houses can be supplied from the mains, should the private supply prove to be unsatisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A full account of the sewerage systems in Rainford will be found in the Annual Report for 1937.

The refuse tip at Ormskirk Road has been temporarily closed, and the Football Pitch on the Silver Jubilee Recreation Ground is now being used in order to level the ground.

Closet Accommodation.

The War has prevented progress being made with the conversion of privy middens.

The elimination of privy middens remains a chief sanitary requirement in the district.

Public Cleansing.

No alteration in the system of public cleansing has taken place during the year. Full details were given in the reports for previous years.

Salvage.

The following are the amounts of the various types of Salvage disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Waste Paper	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 tons, 3 cwts.
Scrap Metal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 tons, 16 cwts.
Rags	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 cwts.
Total gross income from same						£130 4s. 11d.

During this time there was a Book Recovery and Salvage Drive which resulted in a substantial increase in the weight of books and waste paper collected. Altogether 17,006 books were collected, 1,395 of which were allocated to Forces, 261 to Libraries and the remaining 15,350 to Salvage. This was equivalent to $4\frac{1}{2}$ books per head of population.

The help of the W.V.S. was invaluable during the Salvage Drive, and their full co-operation is responsible for the continuous smooth running of the Stewards' Scheme. The whole of the district is divided into wards and sub-divided into depots and collected by lorry once a month. The children at the schools are enrolled in the "Cog" Scheme and have made a substantial contribution to the success of the Drives.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.

V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council. The fact that the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health responsible for this work is also Medical Officer of Health for the District, is effective from the point of view of public health administration. Not only is a full knowledge of the people and the needs of the district of great help at the examination of the children, but prompt action can be taken in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer and the teachers, and much use is made of the returns of sick children forwarded by the School Attendance Officer each week.

Exclusion of scholars is carried out in accordance with the Board of Education's memorandum issued in 1942. Copies have been sent to medical practitioners. It is hoped that the adoption of these recommendations will secure a uniformity of procedure in the case of exclusion of scholars from school.

School Closure.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

School Feeding.

Milk is provided by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee to children in the schools in necessitous cases.

A Feeding Centre is in the process of completion in Rainford and should be ready for use this Summer. Dinners will be supplied from the Centre to all the schools in the District, and there is no

doubt that this will have a beneficial effect upon the nutrition and well-being of the children.

Many of the children attending Rainford schools come from a distance, and the provision of a hot substantial meal each day will be particularly valuable in the winter months.

In the course of School Medical Inspection, special note is made of the nutritional state of each child and, generally speaking, children travelling from a distance appear to be at an appreciable disadvantage compared with their companions who live nearer to the school.

Milk is provided in the schools under the Milk Marketing Board's Scheme. Special provision is made by the Education Committee of the Lancashire County Council for necessitous children.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis. The samples in 1943 all proved satisfactory.

Cleanliness.

Reference was made in the Report for 1941 to the incidence of verminous infestation in school children. Cleanliness inspections still constitute an important part of the work of the School Nurse and vigorous action is taken where infestation is found.

Scabies.

There was a welcome falling off in the number of cases of scabies coming to the notice of the Heath Department during the year. The arrangements made with the Ormskirk Urban District Council and described in last year's Report continue in operation.

The disinfestation machine set up at Muncaster Hall gave valuable service and enabled the disinfestation of clothing and bedding to be carried out expeditiously.

VI.—HOUSING.

No changes have taken place with regard to housing since my last Report.

Since the outbreak of hostilities, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as A.R.P., have now prohibited such inspections.

VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

On the 31st December, 1943, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ;
- 13 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 2 persons as purveyors of milk.

There are in the district approximately 150 cows kept for dairy purposes.

During the year a Model Dairy has been opened at Mosborough Hall Farm. Most of the milk produced is disposed of wholesale.

Routine inspections have been carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspector. Every effort is made to maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness in the case of both cows and cowsheds. It will be appreciated that no structural alterations have been effected since the outbreak of war.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection : There were no slaughter houses in operation in the District during the year.

VIII.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

IX.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No outstanding occurrence marked 1943, except that notified cases of measles numbered half as many again as the previous year. The incidence of diphtheria showed a welcome fall, and there is little doubt that the Council's Scheme for the immunisation of children against this disease is playing an important part in keeping down this infection.

Hospital accommodation is provided at Ormskirk by arrangement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council and is adequate.

Scarlet Fever.

4 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. The cases were mild in type ; indeed scarlet fever has become so benign that removal to hospital is not usually indicated or to be desired. Cross infection, the cause of most of the complications of scarlet fever, is eliminated if the patient is nursed at home. Hospital

treatment should be reserved for severe cases requiring skilled nursing and those cases occurring in a household, a member of which is a food handler or a woman approaching confinement.

Diphtheria.

2 cases of diphtheria were notified during 1943. Both were removed to hospital. One patient succumbed to the disease. In neither case had the patient previously received prophylactic treatment.

It is important that the drive to secure the immunisation of all children should not be relaxed.

A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is readily available, free of charge, at all times, and is kept by the Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following is a table of notifications of infectious disease received during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 54	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	41	1	4	7	4	4	19	—	1	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	21	2	2	6	3	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	75	4	7	13	8	10	25	—	1	2	1	2	2

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 1943, the number of children immunised for the first time was 108. In addition to this, 89 were given a second protective course of immunisation on entering school life. This practice is in accord with recent medical research, which shows that the degree of immunisation achieved by treatment in infancy is greatly enhanced by a second injection of 0.5 c.c. of antigen, given when the child is about five years of age. This is the time when the child enters school life and meets a new community.

A very high proportion of the children living in Rainford have now been immunised. Special attention is directed towards securing

the treatment of the young child, as it is amongst infants that diphtheria takes its greatest toll.

Most parents are well familiar with the Council's Scheme and are anxious to avail themselves of the facilities provided.

As soon as an infant in the Urban District attains 1 year, the mother is invited to bring it for treatment to the Child Welfare Centre.

In this work Dr. S. N. Wright, of the County Staff, rendered valuable assistance. The County Health Visitor, Miss Melia, gave freely of her time, and her co-operation was essential and valuable. Upon Miss T. M. Ellerington fell the responsibility for making appointments and keeping records.

The Tables given below show the number of children who have been immunised since the Council's Scheme for the free immunisation against diphtheria was put into operation in November, 1938.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Total
Under 1 year		1	2	3	1	Nil	under 5 years at end of 1943
1 year	2	14	9	36	41	38	
2 years	5	11	11	22	17	6	
3 years	10	5	4	9	9	4	
4 years	12	7	11	15	13	9	
5 years	21	13	4	11	8	7	Between 5 & 9
6 years	31	13	4	11	11	8	
7 years	24	9	5	5	5	10	
8 years	25	5	5	2	1	6	
9 years	28	11	2	5	1	5	
10 years	35	6	5	6	—	8	Between 10 & 14
11 years	27	4	2	6	—	4	
12 years	29	3	2	2	—	1	
13 years	21	3	2	1	—	1	
14 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	
15 years and over	1	—	—	—	—	1	15 yrs. & over 88
	272	105	68	134	107	108	794

Alum precipitated toxoid supplied by the Ministry of Health is the standard immunising agent used. Two doses are given subcutaneously into the upper arm, an interval of at least four weeks intervening between the two. The first injection amounts to 0.2 c.c. and the second to 0.5 c.c.

It is most unusual for any reactions to occur in children under 8 years of age. Over this age slight local reactions have occasionally been noticed after the first "detector" dose of 0.2 c.c., and in these cases immunisation treatment is completed with Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules. It is exceptional for any reaction to occur after T.A.F.

Immunity is acquired some 2 or 3 months after the last injection.

Immunising material supplied free of cost to practitioners in the district upon request.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	—

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county is in the hands of the Lancashire County Council, who provide dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting.

The Dispensary for Tuberculosis patients in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford area.

Notification of tuberculosis was found to be complete and satisfactory during 1943.

